

# MAINE FARMER

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## MAINE FARMER.

Our Home, our Country, and our Brother Man.

### A LITTLE MORE SYSTEM NEEDED IN CATTLE BREEDING.

Many of the farmers of Maine have disposed of their sheep, and are making preparations to go more largely into the business of raising cattle. We have no doubt that the present demand for American beef in England, will keep up, and probably continue; and if it should, cattle raising will be a fair paying business. Some few of those farmers with whom we are acquainted, duly appreciate the importance of a regular system in this branch of farming, and have made, or are making preparations to pursue it right. Some have gone to great expense to obtain the best breeders of the Durham, Hereford, and other breeds, and show a determination to avail themselves of all the advantages in their power to obtain. But we are sorry to say that the great majority go on as heedlessly and carelessly as ever. They acquire nothing about blood—they look not at the qualities or qualifications of the animals as propagators of stock—they only look out for one thing, and that is to find where the cheapest calves are to be had, and then they buy them. It is all the same to them, whether the sire be good, or good for nothing; and you might as well reason with a crying hyena, as to attempt to point out to them the advantages of any particular breed, for this or that purpose. They have no idea that certain forms and points and characteristics can be fixed, and become so permanent that they can be communicated to their progeny, and that ninety-nine times in a hundred you can predict what will probably be the result of any particular cross. It is all Heathen Greek to them, for a row in a cow, and an ox is an ox, in their view, and they would not remark the difference of keep it would take to fatten them, or the difference in weight and size of the valuable parts when compared with the other. Such are hopeless cases—let them go. Again—we have those who endeavor to do better, but not being able to procure animals of the best breed themselves, rely on others, and hence do not always find the best chance for their business. They are compelled to make crosses not according to what their own good sense would dictate. A very few are endeavoring to keep pure and distinct the several breeds which they like best. But it is hard work for them to stem the tide that prejudice and selfishness often presses up against them. Such endeavors involve great expense of money as well as time, and it also requires no small degree of that kind of courage which can face ridicule and malicious sneering without being daunted. It requires a fixedness of purpose, stability and energy, in order to carry it through, for late as it may be in the day for such things, there are enough in almost every neighborhood, to practice this mode of meeting any efforts of their neighbors to do good, or to bring about any change from established usages. We have thought it would not be a bad plan for neighboring farmers to club together for the purpose of obtaining good breeds of cattle, and for not only helping and assisting each other in the business of propagating some particular breed which they like best; but, also, to mutually strive to enlighten each other by writing and communicating to stated meetings of their members, such observations, experiments, and knowledge as they may obtain from their own research or from intercourse with others. By such clubs, the business would become one of mutual instruction as well as profit. It will not be necessary now, thanks to the enterprise of other parts of the Union, to send across the Atlantic for any of the best breeds of England. They can be found in different parts of the Union. All that is wanting, therefore, is a little energy and co-operation one with another, and a little study and practice of the principles of breeding, to insure as good stock in those districts which may thus unite, as is found in any other State or Kingdom. Such clubs should make it a rule to raise the full blood and thorough bred of each class—whether Durhams or Herefords or Ayrshires or Devons &c. &c. Here is another point in which our farmers have failed. They confine themselves too much to grade animals, and seem to care but little for purity of blood. We presume that ninety-nine hundredths of the cattle of Maine, except those of native breed, are grade animals. Occasionally you will find a farmer who has the full blood of some breed, and he will tell you that he can sell ten half bloods at a reduced price, to one full blood at the market price for such animals. For this reason it is that our cattle are such a medley of grade animals and that there are so few real thorough breeds among us. Were it not for the few individuals who keep the full bloods, our breeds of cattle would soon become a worse jumble than they are now. By a little united and vigorous concert of action, Maine might become as great a mart for thorough bred cattle, as many other parts of the world.

### BUCK WHEAT.

It is not yet too late to sow buck wheat. It does well on sandy lands, and the richer the soil the better the crop, of course. It takes sixty days, in our climate, to come to maturity, sufficient to be cut. We sow from three to six pecks per acre, and we find that it makes a good fodder for horses or sheep and cattle, when not thrashed, and not a very poor one when it is especially if mixed with clover or other hay.

### IT IS NOT A LITTLE CURIOUS THAT IN WESTERN NEW YORK, AND OTHER PLACES WHERE LARGE QUANTITIES OF COMMON WHEAT ARE RAISED, THERE IS MORE BUCK WHEAT ALSO RAISED AND USED THAN IN THOSE STATES WHICH DEPEND UPON THEM FOR FLOUR TO EAT.

## COWS "CLEANING"—"WOLVES"—MANURES—"WORMS IN SHEEP," &c.

MA. EDITOR: A large number of cows in this vicinity have, at the time of calving, failed in "cleaning."

Now the only sure remedy that I know of, is a manual operation. This is perfectly simple and easy, and may be performed by any careful person, with perfect safety to the animal, who possesses but a slight knowledge of animal physiology.

It has been said that a paill of weak lie given to the cow to drink, will cause her to clean well. But there are numerous cases, where, I feel confident, no lie, which it would be safe to give a cow, would be of any avail.

[NOTE. We have seen a cow drink lie, or ley, that would bear up a cow, without any injury. We do not believe that this liquor has any specific effect in such cases. Ed.]

I have seen cows where the "cleaning" was attached to the inner membrane, by large bunches of worms, as big as a hen's egg—these "worms" being thirty or forty in number, and so strongly attached to the inner surface, as to require a considerable exertion to separate them with the thumb and finger.

Now I don't like this remedy, although it's better than none; and presuming you have numerous readers in the same predicament, I wish for my sake and theirs, you would point out a better, if there is any. Also, please to give the reason why some cows are troubled with "worms" while others are not.

[NOTE. All cows have worms when they calve. What are they? They are what an anatomist would call the placenta, which, instead of being in one mass, as in some cases, is made up of several in the cow, sheep, moose, &c. They are a congeries of spongy flesh, and blood vessels. Their office is to adhere to the "inner membrane" (uterus,) as our friend calls it; and the blood vessels of the one meeting and connecting with those of the other, thus convey blood from the system of the cow to that of the fetus. In a healthy state, after the calf is dropped, the blood vessels shrink—they separate readily by the spontaneous efforts of nature, and if you examine the cleavings, you will find the "worms" in a pale, collapsed condition. But in a diseased state this separation does not take place. The union of the blood vessels continues, and they adhere as strong as ever, and appear turgid and red. They may be separated by gentle use of the hand. We say gentle use, for we have known more than one valuable cow sacrificed in consequence of some ignorant fellow clanging them off in a rough and violent manner. Rye, oil meal, fax seed, and such like nourishing and mucilaginous feed, given before calving, are very good. We have never known a cow troubled in this way, that calved white at grass. We suppose it is owing to the laxative properties of the grass, making a healthy condition of the system. Ed.]

I have been told that if cows were well kept, there would be no trouble; but my observation does not confirm the statement. I know of several cows which were troubled with "worms" this spring, which were in good thriving condition. Again, I have seen others, not in as good condition as the first mentioned, which have experienced no trouble at all.

P. S. Since writing the above, I have had a plan for neighboring farmers to club together for the purpose of obtaining good breeds of cattle, and for not only helping and assisting each other in the business of propagating some particular breed which they like best; but, also, to mutually strive to enlighten each other by writing and communicating to stated meetings of their members, such observations, experiments, and knowledge as they may obtain from their own research or from intercourse with others. By such clubs, the business would become one of mutual instruction as well as profit. It will not be necessary now, thanks to the enterprise of other parts of the Union, to send across the Atlantic for any of the best breeds of England. They can be found in different parts of the Union. All that is wanting, therefore, is a little energy and co-operation one with another, and a little study and practice of the principles of breeding, to insure as good stock in those districts which may thus unite, as is found in any other State or Kingdom. Such clubs should make it a rule to raise the full blood and thorough bred of each class—whether Durhams or Herefords or Ayrshires or Devons &c. &c. Here is another point in which our farmers have failed. They confine themselves too much to grade animals, and seem to care but little for purity of blood. We presume that ninety-nine hundredths of the cattle of Maine, except those of native breed, are grade animals. Occasionally you will find a farmer who has the full blood of some breed, and he will tell you that he can sell ten half bloods at a reduced price, to one full blood at the market price for such animals. For this reason it is that our cattle are such a medley of grade animals and that there are so few real thorough breeds among us. Were it not for the few individuals who keep the full bloods, our breeds of cattle would soon become a worse jumble than they are now. By a little united and vigorous concert of action, Maine might become as great a mart for thorough bred cattle, as many other parts of the world.

MANURES. In the Report of the Commissioner of Patents for 1846, Mr. Pell is reported as having stated at a meeting of the American Ag. Association, that he "preferred the manure of decayed vegetable matter to the excrement of cattle, as the material that makes and supports the animal, has been extracted, and the excrement is not so rich on that account. If the vegetable matter be rotted and its ammonia fixed by charcoal dust, all the chemical substances are present.— Thus rotted vegetable matter is more beneficial than the dung of cattle, quantity and quality alike."

Now, Mr. Editor, do the experiments of chemical men and practical farmers support this statement of Mr. Pell's?

If so, it will be much more economical to rot our coarse fodder, than compel cattle to eat it. As the whole profit derived from cattle which are kept on very inferior food, is their dung.

[NOTE. The results of experiments on this subject have been variable; but the majority favor Mr. Pell's statement. Ed.]

About a year since, Morrill Allen of Pembroke, Mass., was reported in the papers, as having said at an Agricultural meeting at the State House in Boston, that he applied his manures to the surface, and partially buried them with the harrow—that he had not the fears of losing by evaporation, which many had, and that he believed his manures gained as much by inhalation from the atmosphere, as they lost by exhalation.

Mr. Editor, please to give your opinion upon this matter. I should also be glad to hear from the correspondents of the Farmer on this subject.

[NOTE. We have always been in the habit of ploughing in the manure. This year we ploughed in a part and harrowed in a part on a field planted to corn. The corn on the harrowed part is now best; but it has been very wet, and we cannot tell which will harvest best. Ed.]

BONNER'S MANURE is advertised highly. I generally place but little faith in the statements of an advertisement; but if this is one half as good as pretended, it is the greatest discovery of modern times—not even excepting the use of steam and magnetism. If by

## THE APPLICATION OF TWENTY-FIVE CENTS, ONE CORD OF MUCK, &c., CAN BE RENDERED SUPERIOR TO A CORD OF THE BEST BARN MANURE, FOR THE CULTIVATION OF WHEAT AND CORN, THE STATE OF MAINE MAY SOON BE MADE TO RIVAL THE MISSISSIPPI VALLEY IN PRODUCTIVENESS.

If any one has made a series of careful experiments with this manure, I should be pleased to see the statement.

[NOTE. If Bonner's method be followed strictly, it will bring on decomposition as stated—but as it regards the economy of it, we are not able to say. Ed.]

WORKS IN THE HEAD OF SHEEP. Altho' the existence of these worms has long been known to many, yet many others still continue sceptical. I had a sheep troubled this spring, and finding he would die, as several others had done, unless the worms were expelled, I took a long feather, and after dipping it in spirits of turpentine, inserted it in the nostril, and with a spiral movement, extended it as far as the region of the eye-brows. It produced some sneezing, and shortly after three worms, of the size of large musk-worms, were expelled. As he got no better, the next day I killed him, and took from the frontal region about forty worms.

A BACKWOODSMAN.

## HAVE AN EYE TO YOUR SEED CORN.

FRIEND HOLMES—As the farmers' friend, permit me to say a few words to them through your useful paper, about seed corn, which, under present circumstances, may be beneficial, as some of them have given up all expectations of realizing an abundant crop of seed corn the present year. I presume it is very natural to suppose that all such will ask themselves the question—"what shall we do for seed corn for another year?" And many will probably answer—"We have enough of last year's growth; and we will lay it away to plant next spring;—not anticipating the least trouble or disappointment;—yet they may be sadly disappointed.

My object in writing to you at this time, is to caution all interested, against placing their dependence upon seed corn that has been sown over, especially in its natural state on the cob. You may be assured that in most cases it will be corn entirely valueless for seed, on account of the depredations of worms or insects of some kind, a description of which you can give much better than I can. It is impossible for such seed to vegetate, let the season be ever so favorable, as you will see by the sample I send you. The ears accompanying this are some grown year before last, from seed sent me by the kindness of the Rev. Mr. Drew of Augusta—he called it the "amity white." I think I received from Mr. Drew, one ear, and those sent you are some of the poorest of more than two hundred ears which I raised from the seed of the one sent me.

I have something of a patch growing from seed raised last year, and you may say to friend Drew that his "crack" piece of corn can't be raised to compare with it for size, and if I doubt it, tell him to come and see, for I should be very happy to convince him, here on the spot.

The transparency of the corn would lead any one to notice the presence and effect of the worm much more readily than in our common yellow variety—but I doubt about the latter being any the less subject to the depredations of the corn worm, than the kind I send you. You will perceive that some of the worms have eaten their way through the hull of the kernel and left for parts unknown, whilst a majority of them have only got so far as to see through. It appears that they start from the cob, or at the junction of the kernel and cob, and travel outwards, and this leads me to the opinion that shelled corn would be much less liable to their depredations than unshelled. Will you give us your opinion about the matter?

To all who wish to keep their last year's seed corn for planting another year, I would recommend to give the corn a thorough smoking, similar to that of curing bacon, and then lay it away. Or you can adopt the following course, which will do more than simply to preserve it from the worms, for birds and squirrels will not be very likely to trouble it, as tar is obnoxious to them.

You must prepare yourself with an iron kettle—one peck of corn, more or less—half a bushel of dry ashes—some ground tar—and one and a half pails of water. Then put the tar in the kettle with the water, and stir until the tar is dissolved and incorporated with the water—then add the corn, and stir briskly until the corn has taken up the tar, and the water becomes clear—turn off the water, and turn the tarred corn on the ashes or plaster, then stir again briskly until the corn is completely coated with ashes, and it is then fit for use when wanted. This is a very simple process, requiring not more than five minutes to complete it.

E. G. BEXTON.

N. Yarmouth Centre, July 5, 1847.

NOTE. We have received the specimens of corn sent by our friend Buxton. Several years ago, Mr. James McLellan of Litchfield, described to us an insect that troubled his seed corn in a manner similar to that of friend Buxton's. We never before saw any specimens of his works, but, as some of the "vermin" are now in the corn, we propose to wait until they come out in perfect form, and shall then be better able to judge of his name and characteristics. [Ed.]

THE VALUE OF A NEWSPAPER. The Chillicothe Advertiser says: "We know a man who engaged his wheat, (600 bushels) the other day, at \$1.12 1/2 per bushel. His neighbor, who had a like amount, engaged his, a few days afterwards, at \$1 per bushel, getting for the same amount, \$75 less. The former 'took the papers,' and consequently knew when prices were high, and took advantage of them. The other, knew nothing at all about them, and by his ignorance lost seventy-five dollars. This sum would have paid for a paper nearly forty years. Those who consult their interests will not fail, at the present time, to take a paper."

## COMPOSTING.

The practice of composting, though one of the highest practical importance to the farming interests of this country, is nevertheless one that has unfortunately attained but a limited adoption among farmers, and especially among those whose scenes of operation are more interior, and upon whose paths the press has never as yet been permitted to shed the lumen of its amending light.

Every thing of a vegetable origin, is capable of becoming food for plants, and consequently is valuable in the business of composting. The incognito farmer, as he looks down upon the dry and adust moss which so scantily clothes with brittle-like foliage the surface of the sterile field, or the clefted rock, is ready to inquire how such productions can be rendered of value; or how the hauling, from whence every particle of succulence has been extracted, and the dry leaves of the forest, whirled abroad as if rejected by nature, by the autumn winds, can be rendered serviceable in the great labor of enriching the soil, of imparting vigor or sustenance to his crops.

All vegetable fibrous matters consist of carbon, hydrogen and oxygen; three principles which may be regarded with propriety as strictly indispensable to vegetable life. In one hundred parts of this substance we accordingly find by analysis, of

Carbon,	52.5
Oxygen,	42.3
Hydrogen,	5.2

Plants are, however, made up of other matters besides fibre; nitrogen is one of their essential constituents. This is sometimes called vegetable albumen; and the decomposition of this important ingredient of the vegetable economy, gives rise to another substance, viz., ammonia, which is itself a compound of nitrogen and hydrogen. This is a gaseous and highly soluble substance, and an invariable constituent of Ammus, the presence of which in every soil is perhaps the true source of high and sustained fertility, and which it is the object of all composting operations to produce.

CELERY. This is a most excellent winter vegetable, and one that can be brought to perfection only by the most careful cultivation. As it possesses so many excellences, we are surprised that more attention is not accorded to its cultivation, especially by those who have ground and means, and who profess to be fond of it. We have visited many gardens this season, and while we have been gratified at beholding the most unequivocal evidences of general industry and improvement in other matters, we have rarely had the pleasure of congratulating the possessor on the beauty or extent of his celery bed. On the contrary we have seldom seen it, and we believe that it is at present less cultivated in this region than any plant of similar importance and value that can be named.

RYE. In Germany and Russia, rye is the principal bread corn, and throughout the Continent it is much more extensively cultivated than wheat. It is regarded as not only a much more certain crop than the latter, but as requiring a far less amount of labor and manure.

In Great Britain and Wales, where rye was formerly grown in large quantities, its cultivation has almost wholly ceased, and in Ireland and Scotland it engrosses at present far less attention than formerly, and can scarcely be enumerated among the bread grains of either country. A friend who has travelled extensively there, informs us that he rarely saw it, and he thinks that it is but seldom grown as an article of human food.

According to some authors, rye is a native of Crete; yet we have sufficient data to warrant the belief that, like wheat, it is a fugitive grain. The Egyptians had a tradition which assigned its introduction among men to the beneficence of one of their chief deities, supposing that before, both wheat and rye were found only in the woods. In its nutritive properties this grain probably comes nearer to wheat than either corn or barley.

In the New England States it is extensively cultivated, and with proper soil, ordinary manure, and a good crop. It requires light sandy and rather warm land, with a subsoil free and porous.

CUTTING WHEAT EARLY. We have for several years advised farmers to cut their wheat earlier than is usually done; and all who have tried it have found advantage by the practice. As soon as the grain is out of the milk, and in what is termed the doughy state, it is fit to cut, and will be heavier and better in all respects than if allowed to become dead ripe. Especially is this the case where the straw is at all affected with rust. Mr. Hawley, in the communication before mentioned, says:

"As soon as the bulk of the crop has got its brown color, and the berry is doughy and soft, I consider the right time. I then commence cutting, and let it lie in the swath one day if the weather is good; and do not wait for the small wheat to grow larger, for it never will—and thus lose the best of my crop by shelling, to say nothing of the shrinkage in weight. I let three acres of my best wheat stand until dead ripe, for seed; it weighed 61 pounds; the wheat alongside, cut one week earlier, weighed 64 pounds." [Ohio Cult.]

THE LOUISIANA SUGAR CROP. An engineer who has been for some years engaged in constructing works on the sugar plantations in Louisiana, in a letter to the N. Y. Express, anticipates that the next sugar crop of Louisiana, will amount to 800,000 hds. of 1000 lbs. each, and nine million gallons of molasses. One gallon of cane juice generally makes about one pound of sugar.

A large quantity of white and refined sugar will be made direct from the cane next grinding, some planters having procured very extensive machinery and apparatus for this purpose. The sugar houses on the Mississippi, some of them, have cost over fifty thousand dollars in improvements.

## FARM WORK FOR JULY.

We have now entered on our most important month. The great harvest of New England is the hay harvest, and July is the month principally relied on to secure a competent supply of food for that large class of farm animals that are fed principally on hay.

The short red clover that comes out with a full head here by the middle of June, will require to be secured first of any. Sorrel that grows with it, is eaten quite greedily by cattle in case it is cut early, and has a fair run to it to nourish, or only as a relisher, like a pickle, or mustard, or tomato, we shall not decide. (Why don't some of our chemists tell us precisely how much beef, and how much mutton are made from a pound of well cured sorrel? We have no doubt they would come quite as near the mark in this as they have in their estimate of turnips, potatoes, and cabbage.)

Clover of all kinds should be cut early. There is a great difference in the weight of clover cut at different times. Late cut clover will always be light, and generally worthless. The large northern red clover should be cut before the heads are all full. When it is rank we prefer to cut it as soon as one half the heads are filled.

Herds-grass and red-top differ much from clover. They may be cut during almost any part of the month in case the land is good so as to produce a good burden. Some contend that the herds-grass ought to stand late and form seeds before it is cut. But as this is not very philosophical the public will require some evidence to substantiate such a doctrine. Cut straw, rye straw, barley straw, and wheat straw, all make better fodder before the grain is full than afterwards.

In the dull days of July the corn and the late potatoes should be hoed for the third time. Early potatoes should not be earthed, or killed up, after the vines have grown large, because the tendency is to multiply small potatoes at the expense of good sized ones. It is more injurious to potatoes than to corn to hoe after the blades are large.

At the third stirring of the ground the cultivator may be used to advantage as it does not go deep and only stirs the surface to kill weeds, or to prevent their starting. Among corn we never fear stirring the roots, though we use a plough as late as the middle of July. When we can pass along between the rows without breaking the stalks, we risk the roots. [Mass. Ploughman.]

## PREPARATION FOR THE HAY AND GRAIN HARVEST.

During this month and the next, will be the height of hay-making, and the reaping of grain, the most pleasing yet the most laborious of agricultural occupations. Arduous and toilsome as these operations are, they may be greatly facilitated by the use of suitable implements, which may cost a little more than poor ones in the outset, but will prove cheaper in the end.

The first requisite in hay making, is a large or moderate sized grindstone, of a sharp grit, mounted in a manner that the mower can turn it himself, and grind at the same time. Next, a good scythe, which must be well hung, with a sharp-gritted whetstone, and a well prepared rifle, made after the old fashioned mode, of wood, covered with a layer of grease, and fine sand. Then the small fork spreading and turning the hay; one or more spade rakes, in case of accident; a large fork for pitching; hay-ladders and bolsters, for fitting on the wagon or cart; a pair of spruce hay-poles for conveying the hay to the barn or stack; in case of emergency; and those possessing large hay-farms, will find it economical to purchase a horse-rake, and a sufficient number of mats or tarpaulins for guarding the cocks of hay in the field, from showers and heavy dews.

In our agricultural labors, perhaps there is no branch more frequently slighted, and more slovenly done, than that of stacking hay and grain. The stacks are usually placed flat on the ground, often in situations where the water will not drain off, with the whole structure rough, misshapen, and totally unprotected from vermin and the rain. In England, this business is done differently; the stacks being made with the view of saving all the grain, and keeping the hay from the rain.

They are generally placed on frames, elevated about two feet above the earth; and then built with the most exact symmetry, to the height of twenty or thirty feet, and covered with thatch.

Those who have large fields of grain to cut, if it is not much lodged, will find it advantageous to employ the cradle-scythe instead of the sickle. One accustomed to its use, will do the work more rapidly and well. In fact, the scythe is an instrument which should be more generally adopted in harvest, as long experience has fully proved.

[American Agriculturist.]

HAMPSHIRE PIGS. We saw, in this city, a few days ago, a lot of very fine pigs, about ten weeks old, brought in by Mr. John Lahe of Woburn. We have seen this same breed at Mr. Lahe's, and they are among the handsomest and best formed hogs that we have seen of any breed. They are said to be remarkably quiet, and contented, growing fast and fattening kindly, on moderate keeping. Mr. L. imported this breed from Hampshire County, England. He sells these pigs readily at good prices, their appearance being a good recommendation. He has none for sale at the present time. [Boston Cult.]

SLAUGHTERING ANIMALS. Animals, before being slaughtered, should be allowed to fast for something like 24 hours, in order that the stomach and bowels may become empty. This is particularly true of sheep or horned cattle, or in fact any animal that ruminates, as such animals retain their food longer than others.

The meat of an animal butchered while the stomach is full, is much more liable to putrefy in warm weather than that killed in proper condition; hence this rule is especially to be regarded at this season of the year. [Prairie Farmer.]

## COL. WILDER AND HIS DWARF PEARS.

We had the pleasure of passing a night last week with Col. Wilder, at his beautiful country seat in Dorchester.

Col. Wilder's grounds are full of objects of interest to one who has an eye for the beauties of practical horticulture. And who is so brutish as to confess, without shame, an utter indifference to the charms of this fascinating pursuit? If a man love not what he has seen—the overshadowing trees and the infrequent flowers that grow and bloom by the dusty paths of life, how can he love the unseen God who made them?

More of such like questions might easily be propounded, but it is not our province to preach. Neither is it our present object to invite the reader's imagination to revisit with ours, Mr. Wilder's green-houses, where a hundred magnificent camellias in full bloom present to the gladdened eye of the beholder the most delicate and exquisite tints of their flowers—colors given them by the great Artist that they might teach a lesson of deep humility to the presumptuous yet impotent hand of human imitation.

But dwarf pear trees are the subject of our story—if indeed the name itself be not a misnomer when applied to trees from fifteen to twenty-four inches in girth at a distance of some three or four feet from the ground, and branching out into beautiful pyramid shaped heads, fourteen or fifteen feet high. These gigantic dwarfs are grafted upon quince stalks just under the surface of the earth, so as to be below the reach of the barer which sometimes destroys the quince. There are several of this size in Col. Wilder's grounds, and they produce from one to two, and even three bushels of fruit annually, of varieties which, when offered for sale in the Boston markets, readily command a price frequently as high as 12-15 cents a piece.

With every allowance for Col. W.'s known experience and skill, we have yet to learn why deep tillage and rich soil will not produce similar if not quite equal trees and fruits here in the interior of the State. We, of Worcester county, are already the smartest people in the Commonwealth in the cultivation of the apple, and the Boston folks are beginning to look askance at the proud bearing of our pears. Whatever, in the matter of fruit-culture, succeeds there, may—yes, can, must, would, should, and (we will add) will and shall succeed here.

The Boston Society, as we have just remarked, even now "acknowledge the corn" when Worcester county boasts of her apples; they might as well do the like also when the conversation turns upon quinces; and we very humbly venture to predict that the ten-years-hence visitor to Faneuil Hall Market, will make eager inquiries for "Worcester pears?"

But to the point. We would recommend to every one desirous to plant out trees of this delicious fruit, the present season, to select a portion of them from among the dwarf or quince-bottomed pears.

Col. Wilder, whose practical knowledge of the nature and habits of the pear is worth as much as that of any other man in America, thinks very highly of this mode of cultivating it; and even the passer-by from the public highway, may see the grounds from which his opinions have been formed.

The dwarf pear trees come early into bearing—their fruit is often larger and better flavored than that grown upon standards—they produce more fruit for the ground that they occupy, eight or ten feet apart being sufficient for them—and, lastly, they will continue in bearing, if properly treated, for a generation.

Plant out a few pears upon quince stalks, say we, unless indeed you be of the same mind with the venerable Romain, who, on being asked for whom he was setting trees in his old age, replied:—"For the immortal Gods, while they permit us to receive from our ancestors, demand that we also should provide for posterity."

Thus endeth our little chapter upon dwarf pear trees.

G. J. Worcester, Mass., April 20, 1847. [Worcester Farmer.]

## ORIGIN OF BOTS IN HORSES, AND THEIR CURE.

MR. PORTER: I have observed lately much speculation as to the origin of the bot or grub. I have read Mr. Mitchell's account of his experiment in the cure, and after the animal died, his experiment in killing the worms, after taking them from the stomach of the dead horse.

As it should be our object to do all the good we can to mankind, I feel it my duty to give the world what I think a certain remedy for the bot or grub, without commenting how they find their way into the horse's stomach, or how they are formed. It is enough that such a thing does exist as bots in horses, and that it is important how to get rid of them, when we ascertain our horse is affected by them.

To make the bot or grub let go his hold, give the horse a quart of molasses or dissolved sugar, with a quart of sweet milk; in thirty minutes you will find the horse at ease: then pulverize one eighth of a pound of alum, dissolve it in a quart of warm water, and drench your horse—after which, in two hours or less, give the horse one pound of salts, and you will find the bots in his dung. I have never failed. I think this is, after all the speculations and cures I have seen, the only thing that will to a certainty remove the bots.

The molasses and sweet milk cause the bot to let go and prey upon the sweetening—the alum contracts him, and the salts passes him off. [J. C. Walker, in Spirit of the Times.]

NATURAL COMPASS. It is a well-known fact that in the vast prairies of Texas, a little plant is always to be found, which, under every circumstance of climate, change of weather, rain, frost, or sunshine, invariably turns its leaves and flowers to the North. If a solitary traveller were making his way across these trackless and desolate wilds, without a star to guide or a compass to direct him, he finds an unerring monitor in an humble plant, and he follows its guidance, certain that it cannot mislead him.

[Prairie Farmer.]

## MILK PAINT.

A foreign writer says, a paint has been used on the Continent with success, made from milk and lime, that dries quicker than oil paint, and has no smell. It is made in the following manner: Take fresh curds, and bruise the lumps on a grinding stone, or in an earthen pan, or mortar, with a spatula or strong spoon. Then put them into a pot with an equal quantity of lime, well slacked with water, to make it just thick enough to be kneaded. Stir this mixture without adding more water, and white colored fluid will soon be obtained, which will serve as paint. It may be laid on with a brush, with as much ease as varnish, and it dries very speedily. It must, however, be used on the same day it was made; for if kept till next day it will be too thick; consequently no more must be mixed up at one time than can be laid on in a day. If any color be required, any of the ochres, as yellow or red ochre or umber, may be mixed with it in any proportion. Prussian blue would be changed by the lime. Two cents of this paint will be sufficient, and when quite dry it may be polished with a piece of woolen cloth, or similar substance, and it will become as bright as varnish. It will only do for inside work; but it will last longer if varnished over with the white of an egg after it has been polished.

SLAYING SAWS. A very great improvement may be made in the common hand splitting-saws, by commencing the teeth at the front of the saw, rather small, and increasing the size of the teeth gradually as they approach the handle, at which end they may be nearly the size of common sized teeth. If saw manufacturers would consider and adopt this method, they would no doubt confer a great favor on carpenters, if not other classes of mechanics. That such saws must be better than the common kind, we think can be plainly seen. In the first place the common saw will cut twice as much on the half next the handle, and has no inclination to suck, catch, or twist, as it has near the point, and the same impetus given with teeth increasing in size, must do greater execution. [Mech. Jour.]

CHRISTMAS IN EMBRYO.—BEAT THIS WHO CAME.—We made a visit, a few days since, to the poultry yard of our friend, Mr. John B. Nash, of Auburn, who has, we venture to say, a "fleet" larger flock of young turkeys than is met with in every barn yard. He wintered two cocks, and six turkey hens, all pullets. They commenced laying about the first of March, and brooding during the months of May and June. One of the pullets, now brooding, has laid 98 eggs and still continues to lay! Two others are still brooding, one upon her own eggs, 25 in number,—the other upon the eggs of the India Goose, of which, by the way, he has quite a numerous flock. The three pullets which have ceased brooding have now quite a numerous progeny, having hatched 96 chicks, of whom 94 are still living! It is not a little amusing to witness the fatherly care the two cocks manifest over this rising generation, having assumed, very properly, maternal duties. One of them was hovering his young when we entered; we counted thirty under his especial charge. Mr. Nash informs us that he usually has good luck in rearing this variety of fowl, and thinks them far more profitable than hens. [Leviathan Journal.]

## IMPROVEMENT IN SMELTING AND WORKING IRON.

An ingenious invention has been adopted at Jackson's furnace, in Wrentham, Mass., by which the cost











[From the New York Post.]  
**THE LABORING MAN.**  
BY WILLIAM C. BRYANT.

The laborer ceased; his tale was o'er;  
His heart unburthened of its care;  
And, passing in his humble door,  
He bent his weary form in prayer.  
The anguish which he felt no more  
Was passed, and hope sat smiling there.

God bless the laboring man; "thy bread  
Is on the far-off waters cast;  
And He who came to save has said,  
"It shall return to thee at last."  
The rich shall find no softer bed  
Or happier men's lives in the past.

The future, it is full of flowers  
To Christian hearts, so pure as thine—  
And may the Saviour's love these hours  
Rieth such a blessing upon mine,  
That I may seek those joyful hours,  
Where spirits like to thine incline.

[From the Lewiston Falls Journal.]

**THE LIGHT OF THE LAKE.**  
A Tale of the Androscoggin Valley.

The whites of that day wore jackets, and upon their backs were slung knapsacks, which, inside their blanket, contained a scanty amount of provision.

Having finished their breakfast, they commenced the march upon the enemy's quarters, creeping close by the river's bank, and using every possible precaution to avoid falling into an ambuscade. The first frost of autumn was latening upon the leaves, and every rush seemed pointed with polished steel like a lance, while the drooping lily wore on its seat a sparkling cuirass, and every bush and

It was resolved that a feast should succeed the sacrifice, and parties were out by daylight, in search of the choicest luxuries of the food and river. Three or four canoes glided upon the river, and a large quantity of delicious salmon, with which its waters abound at that day, were taken to grace the banquet. Two deer, the result of the hunters' trials, were spitied whole, and hung roasting over a crackling fire, together with a tempting variety of water-fowl and minor forest game. The feast, though in the course of preparation in the rudest possible style, sent a savory fragrance that would have intoxicated the brain even of a professional gourmand.

White trembled all over like an aspen leaf. The Indians observed, and the sister taunts, laughed fensively, and his cowardly woman. Stung to action by their derision, the young man, as really courageous, suddenly snatched a mawuk from Worombus, and with a single blow, cleaving the skull of the who had been foremost in the mockery, of like a grey-hound toward the river. of the band were instantly on his hands with handlong speed he leaped

Worombus received the messenger, sitting on a richly embroidered blanket, surrounded by his warriors. The language of Capt. Church was repeated to him, and rising, he addressed the bearer of the threat in a tone of majestic defiance.

men had been appointed to watch the river for any enemy should receive accession from the warter, and which consisted only of two boats, discovered their motions, and instantly gave the alarm by discharging his musket. The men more and the canoes were in motion, and although two hundred of the Indians were still, before they could arrive at the boats had glided out of the reach of arms, which were discharged in volleys, but had no other effect than to increase the rage of the Indians, who sent up a terrific shout, that sounded fendlike, coming as from the bosom of the waters, in the face of the night.

The men on the shore could clearly discern the boats by the starlight, and their sudden

We do not attempt to apologize for this barbarous butchery, although the reader will bear in mind that the savages of those days were held in no higher estimation than the natives; and even in our own times we can hardly believe that a much better position is allotted them, for our rulers have called in the aid of blood-hounds to hunt them in their native fastnesses.

suffering. The war-party had finished their work.—  
had dyed the soil with the blood of men

the church and the spread of its kindly influence, several *busy-bodies* were found within its pale, who kept it almost constantly in "hot water." This was a source of much grief to the pastor and the good Deacon, as well as to all others of the flock who were well-disposed. But very few escaped immo-

himself in the big arm chair by the al-  
luch to the dissatisfaction of the Gabbles,  
attles, the Quackles, and their associ-  
who said "he'd contaminate the sacred  
Parson Moody made a fervent pray-

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